AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Withdrawn)** A nucleic acid molecule coding for a human C1CKb protein comprising a genetic alteration at amino acid position 481 compared to the wild type, as well as for corresponding segments thereof.

2. **(Withdrawn)** The nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1, wherein said genetic alteration is an amino acid exchange.

3. **(Withdrawn)** The nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 2, wherein by said amino acid exchange a threonine molecule is changed for a serine molecule ($C1CKb^{T481S}$).

4. **(Withdrawn)** A nucleic acid molecule which binds to the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 under stringent conditions.

5. **(Withdrawn)** A nucleic acid molecule which binds to the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 4 under stringent conditions.

6. **(Withdrawn)** A (poly)peptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1.

7. **(Withdrawn)** A (poly)peptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 2.

8. **(Withdrawn)** A (poly)peptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 3.

9. **(Withdrawn)** A method for diagnosing hypertension, and/or allergy, and/or hair loss, and/or liability for infection, of a human being, or a predisposition therefor, comprising the steps of:

(a) Providing a biological sample of said human being;

(b) Analyzing said biological sample for the presence of a nucleic acid molecule or/and a (poly)peptide; and

(c) correlation of positive findings to hypertension, and/or allergy, and/or hair loss, and or liability for infection, or a predisposition therefor,

wherein said nucleic acid molecule in step (b) is selected from the group consisting of: the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1, 2, 3, and 4; and/or said (poly)peptide is selected from the group consisting of: the (poly)peptide according to Claim 6, 7, and 8.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to Claim 9, wherein said analyzing for the presence of said nucleic acid molecule in step (b) is performed by means of PCR technology.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to Claim 10, wherein the PCR amplification products are analyzed by means of denaturing high pressure liquid chromatography (dHPLC).

12. **(Currently amended)** A method for identifying substances modulating activity of a ~~peptide~~ polypeptide derived from chloride channel Kb (C1CKb) protein ~~that~~ wherein said protein is genetically altered at amino acid position 481 compared to ~~the~~ wild type, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting ~~of~~ said ~~peptide~~ polypeptide ~~to~~ with a test substance, under conditions allowing the binding of said test substance to said ~~peptide~~ polypeptide, and

(b) determining ~~determination~~, whether said test substance modulates the activity of said ~~peptide~~ polypeptide,

wherein said polypeptide comprises said amino acid as position 481 of the ClCKb protein.

13. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 12, wherein said genetic alteration is an amino acid exchange.

14. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 13, wherein by said amino acid exchange a threonine molecule is changed for a serine molecule ($C1CKb^{T481S}$).

15. **(Original)** The method according Claim 12, wherein said determination in step (b) is performed via ion current measurements, preferably via chloride ion current measurements, across a biological cell membrane.

16. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 15, wherein said ion current measurements are performed via patch clamp and/or voltage clamp technology.

17. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 15, wherein in step (b) it is determined whether said test substance inhibits ion current across said biological cell membrane.

18. **(Withdrawn)** A substance for modulating activity of a peptide derived from C1CKb protein that is genetically altered at amino acid position 481 compared to the wild type, identified by means of the method according to claim 12.

19. **(Withdrawn)** A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a substance modulating activity of a peptide derived from C1CKb protein that is genetically altered at amino acid position 481 compared to the wild type; and

(b) formulating said substance into a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein step (a) is performed by means of the method according to claim 12.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to Claim 19, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is destined for treating hypertension, and/or allergy, and/or hair loss, and/or liability for infection, of a human being.

21. **(Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical composition prepared by the method according to Claim 19.

22. **(Withdrawn)** A method for treating a human being affected by hypertension, and/or allergy, and/or hair loss, and/or liability for infection, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a genetic construct coding for an antisense-C1CKb^{T481S} probe and/or for a C1CKb^{T481S}-RNAi; and

(b) introducing said construct into a human being by means of gene therapeutic methods.

23. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to Claim 22, wherein said construct is selected from the group consisting of: naked DNA or cDNA, naked RNA or cRNA, plasmid DNA, plasmid RNA, vector RNA, non-virulent/non-pathogenic virus, and transformed bacteria.

24. **(Withdrawn)** A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for treatment of hypertension, and/or allergy, and/or hair loss, and or liability for infection, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a genetic construct coding for antisense C1CKb^{T481S}, and/or C1CKb^{T481S}-RNAi; and

(b) formulating said construct into a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. **(Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical composition prepared by the method according to Claim 24.

26. **(Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a genetic construct coding for antisense C1CKb^{T481S}, and for C1CKb^{T481S}-RNAi, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.